Conservation Security Program
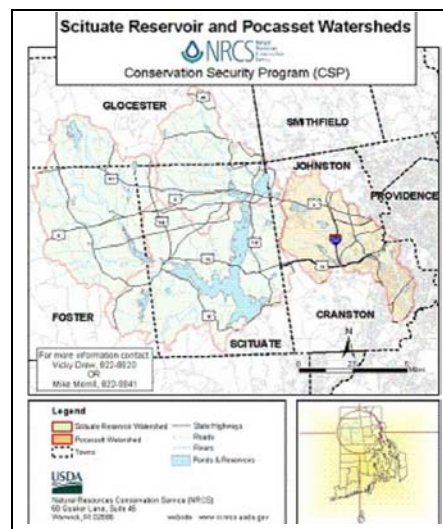
Initial Questionnaire

Scituate Reservoir and Pocasset River Watersheds, Rhode Island

You could potentially be eligible to participate in the new Conservation Security Program (CSP) if you can answer "yes" to the following questions that apply to your farm operation.

1. Is your farm or land you operate located in the watershed shown on the attached map? If you are unsure, please call Michael Merrill at 822-8841 for clarification.

2. Do you have cropland (including land devoted to nursery and Christmas trees), hayland, pastureland, vineyards and/or orchards that you wish to enroll in Conservation Security Program (CSP)?

3. Do you own or have control of the land you intend to enroll in CSP for the length of the proposed 5 to 10 year contract period?

4. Do you share in the risk of producing the crop or livestock on this farm?   For example, do you help fund or pay for production costs and receive some of the profits, either in cash or in kind?

5. Do you manage your nutrient usage and have records showing soil tests at least once in the past three years for the acreage you wish to enroll in CSP?

6. If you annually till your cropland, do you plant winter and/or summer cover crops or practice crop rotations?

7. Do you have at least two years of records of your pest management methods and applications for the acres you wish to enroll?

8. For pastureland, do you manage livestock (both numbers and timing of grazing) based on available forage? Do you manage livestock access to water? If so, can or have you documented your management activities?

If you have answered yes to all of these questions, you may wish to consider attending the CSP information meetings to find out what opportunities you may have in CSP or log on to www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov.

Note: Portions of your farm or operation currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program or Grassland Reserve Program are not eligible acres for the CSP program.